

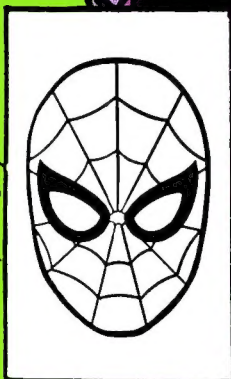
MARVEL
COMICS



1990 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.
\$1.00 US
\$1.25 CAN
57
AUG
UK 60p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

X-FACTOR

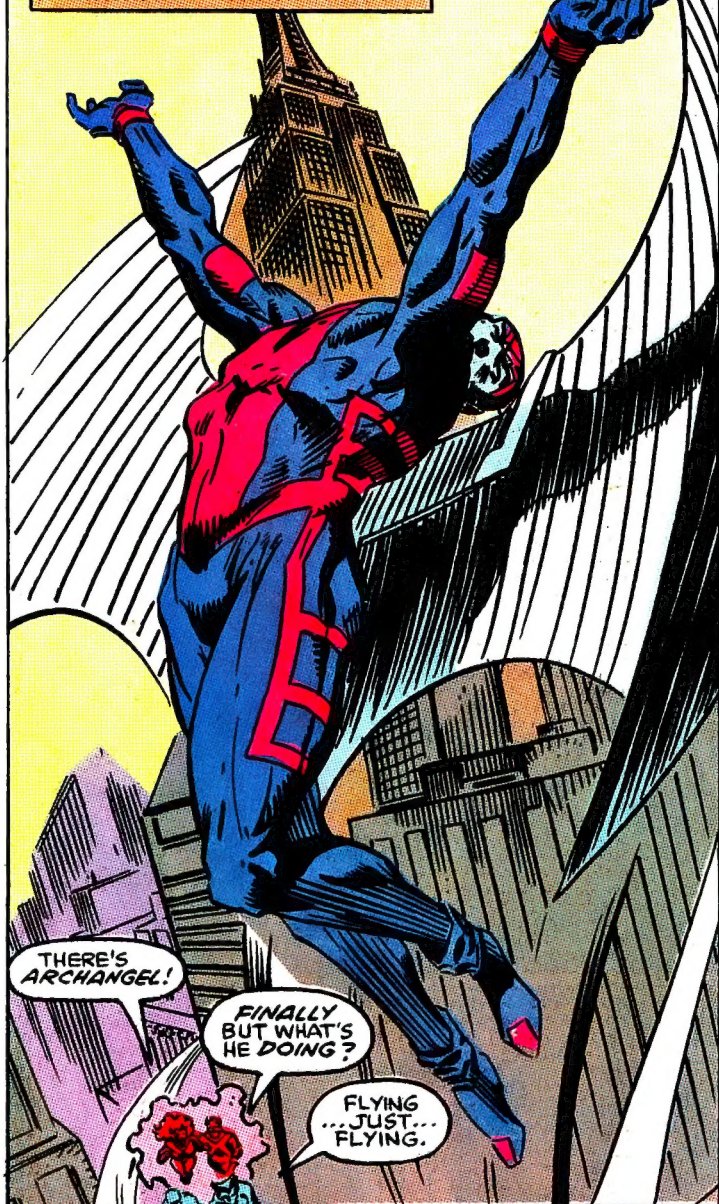
✓ ANGEL'S ROBBED A BANK!
✓ X-FACTOR'S BEEN AMBUSHED BY DEADLY TERRORISTS!
✓ PSYCHIC VAMPIRES ARE ON THE LOOSE!



AND THE BEAST ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT ANY OF IT!

Andy Klein

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE: THE VICTIM OF A BIZARRE HALLUCINOGENIC DRUG, THE MUTANT KNOWN AS ARCHANGEL HAS RUN AMUCK--TERRORIZING THE CITY OF NEW YORK FOR DAYS. HIS TEAMMATES IN X-FACTOR HAVE BEEN DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR HIM. NOW, THEIR QUEST NEARS ITS END...



THERE'S ARCHANGEL!

FINALLY BUT WHAT'S HE DOING?

FLYING... JUST... FLYING.

FROM CRIMSON'S JOURNAL... "LIKE ALL THE OTHER NEW YORKERS, I WATCH HIM ON TV, BUT I'VE BEEN INSIDE HIS MIND. I KNOW WHY THE ARCHANGEL IS SOARING SO OBLIVIOUSLY..."

"MY CONTACT WITH HIM HAS REVIVED OLD MEMORIES. HE THINKS THIS IS THE GOOD OLD DAYS, BEFORE HE LOST HIS BRIGHT, SHINING, SILVER WINGS, AND REGREW THOSE NEW ONES EDGED WITH DARKNESS..."



OH MY STARS AND GARTERS, CYCLOPS! OVER THERE! OUT OF NOWHERE... A BATTALION OF ARMORED TROOPS!

SHEESH! DOESN'T THIS EVER LET UP!?



THIS IS GOING TO SOUND CRAZY, BUT THEY FEEL... ALL WRONG.

WE HAVE TO STOP THEM... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

REFLECTIONS

LOUISE SIMONSON
-- WRITER
ANDY KUBERT
-- PENCILER
ALLEN MILGROM
-- INKER
JOE ROSEN
-- LETTERER
TOM VINCENT
-- COLORIST
BOB HARRAS
-- EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
-- EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

JEAN, IF WE
WASTE TIME
FIGHTING THEM,
WE'LL LOSE
ARCHANGEL!

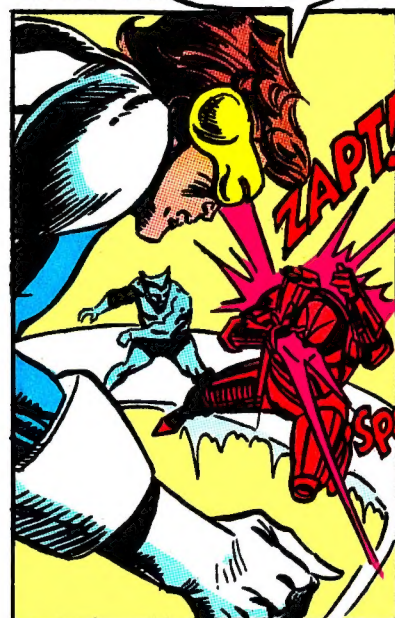
WE MAY
NOT HAVE A
CHOICE,
ICEMAN!

ARCHANGELS
EVIL THESE
CREATURES, SO NOW
THEY'VE TURNED
ON US!

ZAPT!

KRAKKOW!

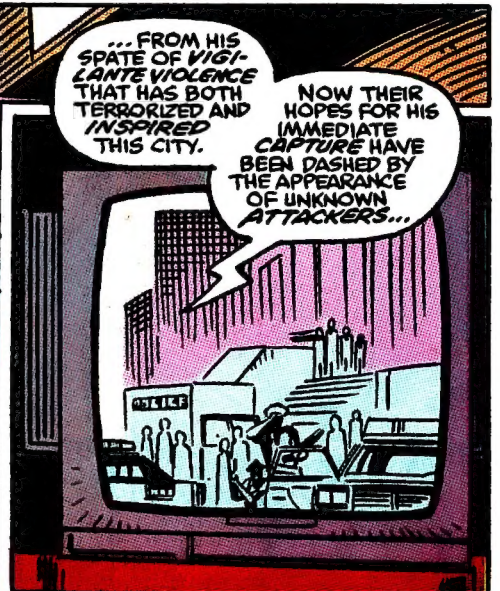
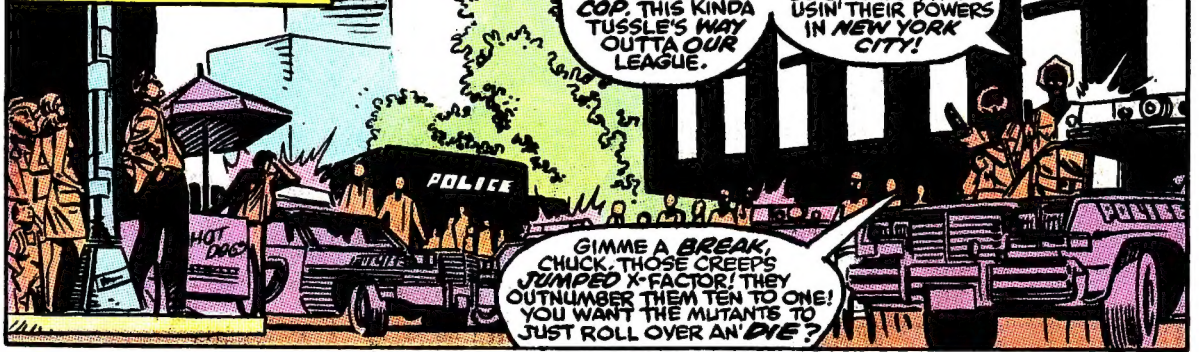
SPANG!

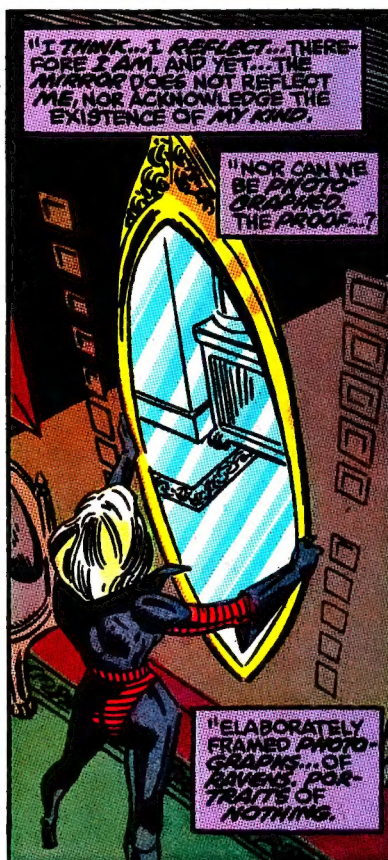
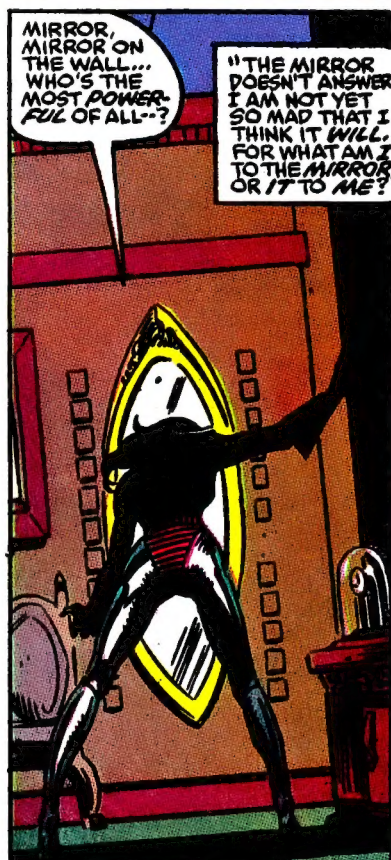
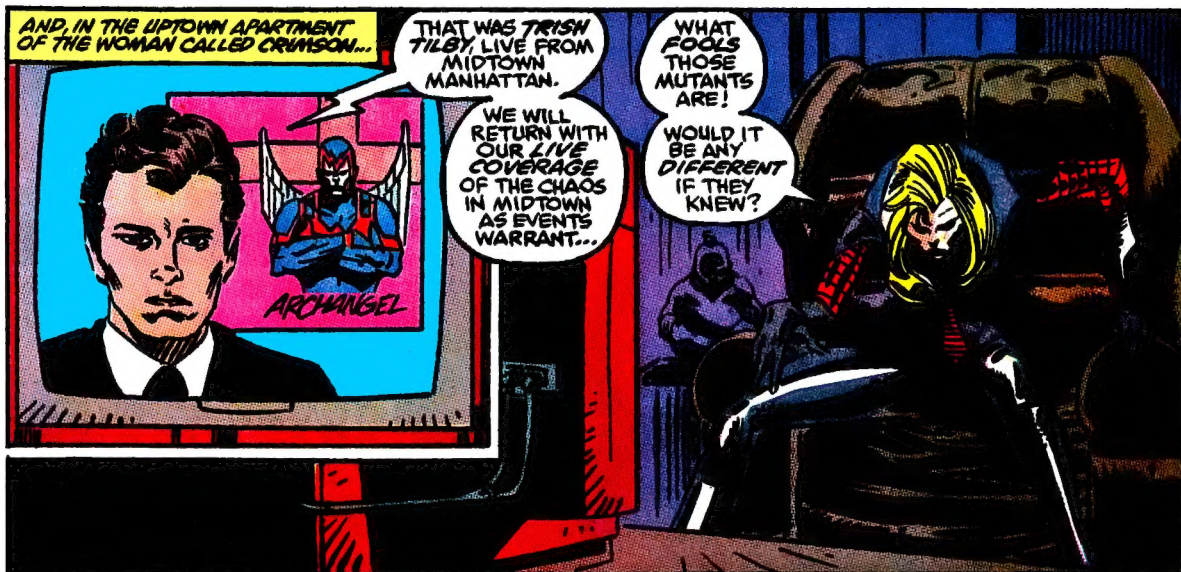


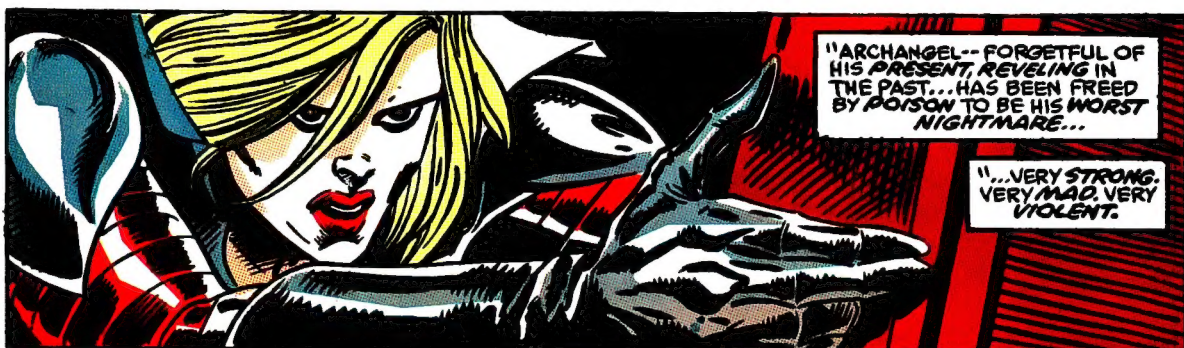
WHERE
DO THESE
JOKERS
COME
FROM?
HOW ARE
THEY
DOING
IT?



AND ON THE STREETS, BELOW, THE AIR BATTLE HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED...

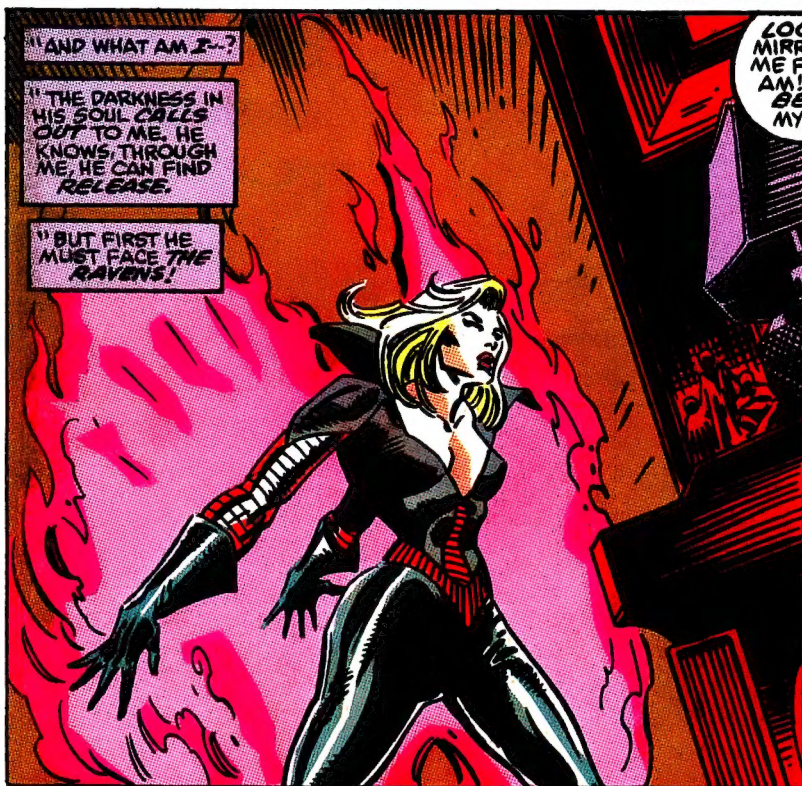






"ARCHANGEL-- FORGETFUL OF HIS PRESENT, REVELING IN THE PAST... HAS BEEN FREED BY POISON TO BE HIS WORST NIGHTMARE..."

"...VERY STRONG. VERY MAD. VERY VIOLENT."

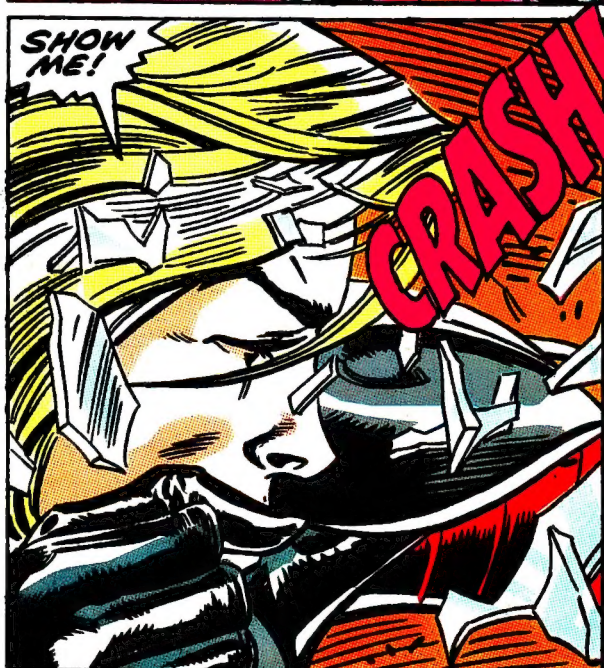


"AND WHAT AM I--?"

"THE DARKNESS IN HIS SOUL CALLS OUT TO ME. HE KNOWS, THROUGH ME, HE CAN FIND RELEASE."

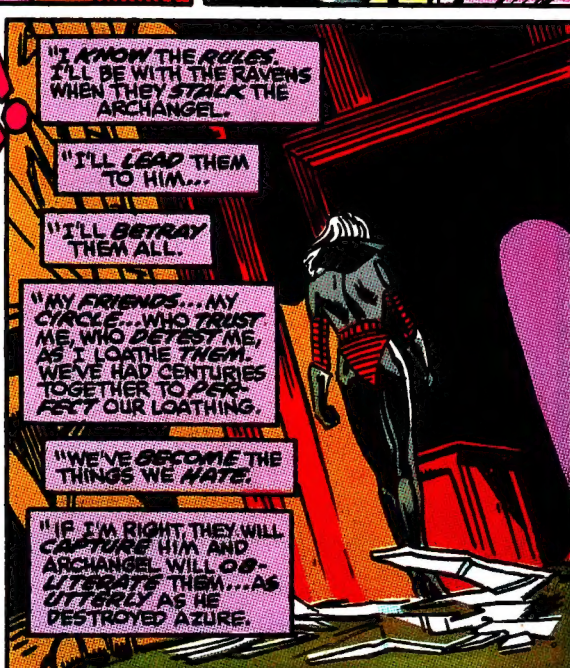
"BUT FIRST HE MUST FACE THE RAVENS!"

LOOK AT ME, MIRROR. SHOW ME FOR WHAT I AM! REFLECT MY BEAUTY AND MY PROMISE!



SHOW ME!

CRASH!



"I KNOW THE RULES. I'LL BE WITH THE RAVENS WHEN THEY STALK THE ARCHANGEL."

"I'LL LEAD THEM TO HIM..."

"I'LL BETRAY THEM ALL."

"MY FRIENDS... MY CIRCLE... WHO TRUST ME, WHO DETEST ME, AS I LOATHE THEM. WE'VE HAD CENTURIES TOGETHER TO PERFECT OUR LOATHING."

"WE'VE BECOME THE THINGS WE HATE."

"IF I'M RIGHT, THEY WILL CAPTURE HIM, AND ARCHANGEL WILL OBLITERATE THEM... AS UTTERLY AS HE DESTROYED AZURE."

"BUT THAT IS ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA. THIS IS STILL THE DAY..."

"...AND IN MY GREED TO DEVOUR THE ARCHANGEL, I SAWOED HIM WHO HE WAS. BUT HE WAS SO MANY THINGS--MUTANT, HERO, BUSINESSMAN, PLAYBOY, MILLIONAIRE..."

"HE'LL BE CONFUSED. I WONDER WHAT PERSONA WILL HE SETTLE ON? WHO WILL HE DECIDE THAT HE IS NOW?"

HEAVEN HELP US, IT'S THAT WINGED MONSTER!

ON PARK AVENUE...?

MAYBE HE DOES HIS BANKING HERE?

OH, NO! IT'S...

HUSH! KEEP BACK! HE'S A KILLER!

SOME-BODY BETTER GET THE COPS!

HI, THERE, I'M WARREN WORTHINGTON.

I BELIEVE YOUR MANAGER HAS SPOKEN TO YOU REGARDING A WITHDRAWAL FROM MY BUSINESS ACCOUNT?

OHMIGOSH... IT'S...IT'S THE ARCHANGEL!

COME ON. HURRY UP. DON'T STAND THERE GAPING. HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY. BOARD MEETING IN A COUPLE OF HOURS AND I STILL HAVE TO...

WARREN WORTHINGTON...? THE PLAYBOY MILLIONAIRE MUTANT...? HE... WAS KILLED IN THAT EXPLOSION...?

AS DATE... SETTING EY...

WHAT HAS WORTHINGTON GOT TO DO WITH ARCHANGEL? THOSE WEIRD TWITCHING GEBTURES...WHAT'S HE DOING--?

I MUST TALK TO ALPHONSE ABOUT THIS TIE. IT DOESN'T SEEM TO LIE QUITE FLAT... MAYBE THAT'S WHAT SHE'S STARING AT...?

* SEE X-FACTOR #15...BOB

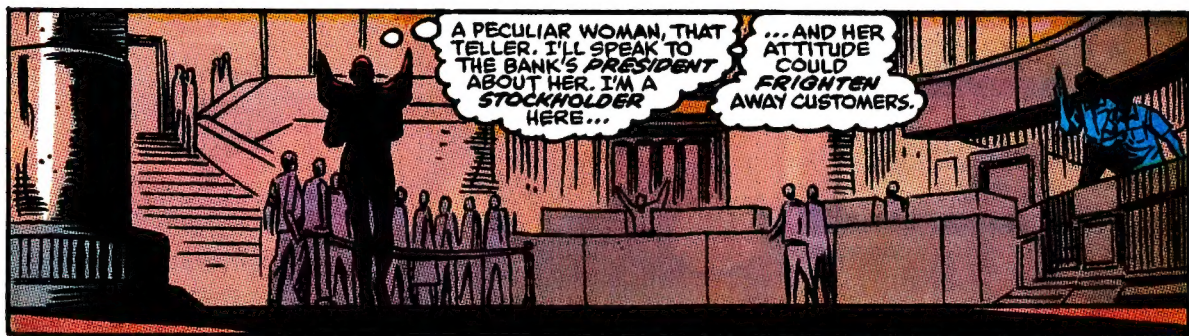
HE'S CRAZY. I SAW HIM ON TV. HE GOES BERSERK...AND HIS WINGS ARE KNIVES. HE COULD KILL ME!

NOT A BAD HAIRCUT, THOUGH. MAYBE A LITTLE CLOSE ON THE SIDES, BUT...

OH, LORD, DON'T HURT ME.

HERE... TAKE IT... ALL OF IT...! JUST... PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.

MY DEAR YOUNG LADY, WHY IN HEAVEN WOULD I WANT TO HURT YOU?



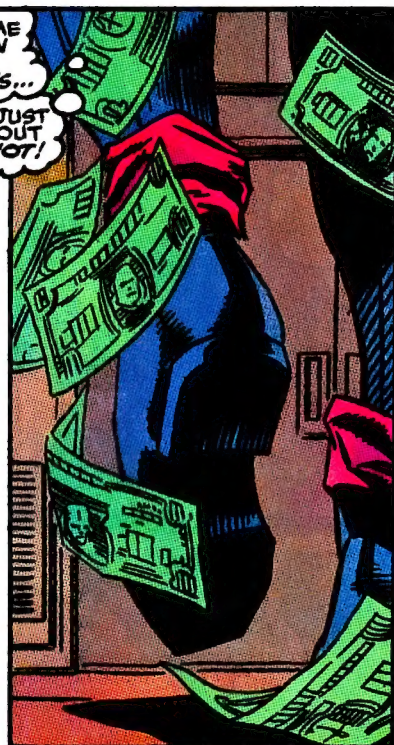
A PECULIAR WOMAN, THAT
TELLER. I'LL SPEAK TO
THE BANK'S PRESIDENT
ABOUT HER. I'M A
STOCKHOLDER
HERE...

...AND HER
ATTITUDE
COULD
FRIGHTEN
AWAY CUSTOMERS.



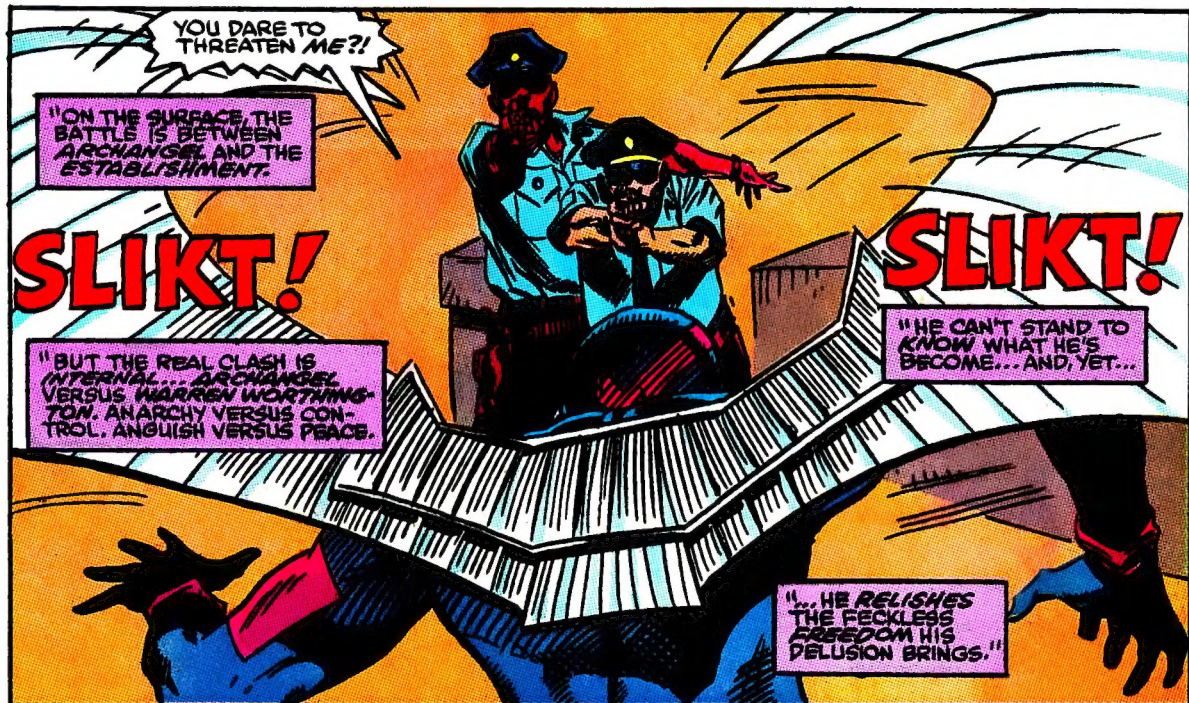
ABOUT TIME
FOR A NEW
WALLET.
THIS ONE'S...

...JUST
ABOUT
SHOT!



HALT...!
RAISE
YOUR HANDS
REAL SLOW!

ARE YOU
KIDDING,
FRED? IT
AIN'T HIS
HANDS WE
GOTTA
WORRY
ABOUT!



YOU DARE TO
THREATEN ME?!

"ON THE SURFACE, THE
BATTLE IS BETWEEN
ARCHANGEL AND THE
ESTABLISHMENT.

SLIKT!

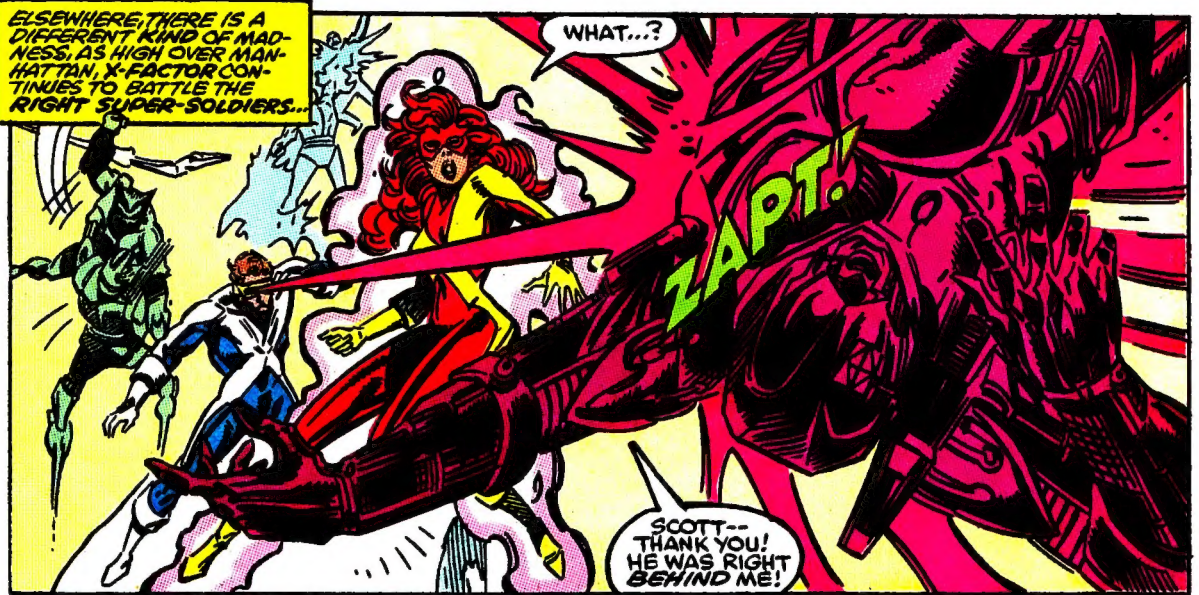
"BUT THE REAL CLASH IS
INTERNAL... ARCHANGEL
VERSUS WARREN WORTHING-
TON. ANARCHY VERSUS CON-
TROL. ANGUISH VERSUS PEACE.

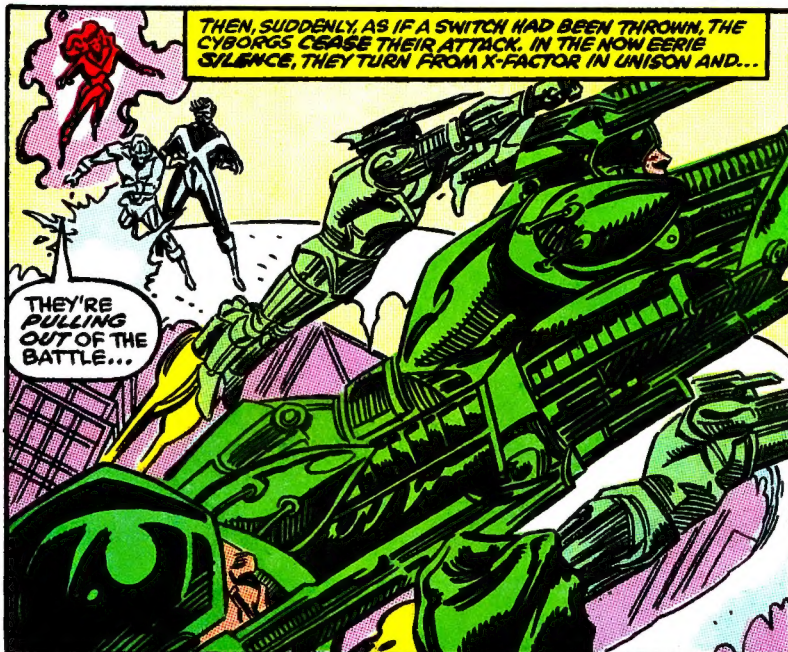
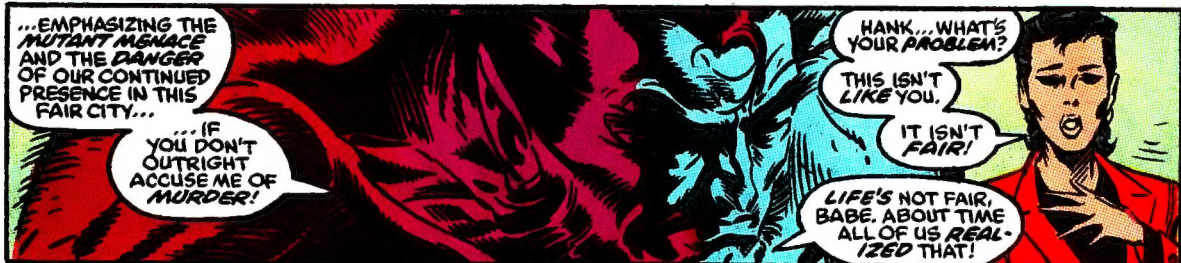
SLIKT!

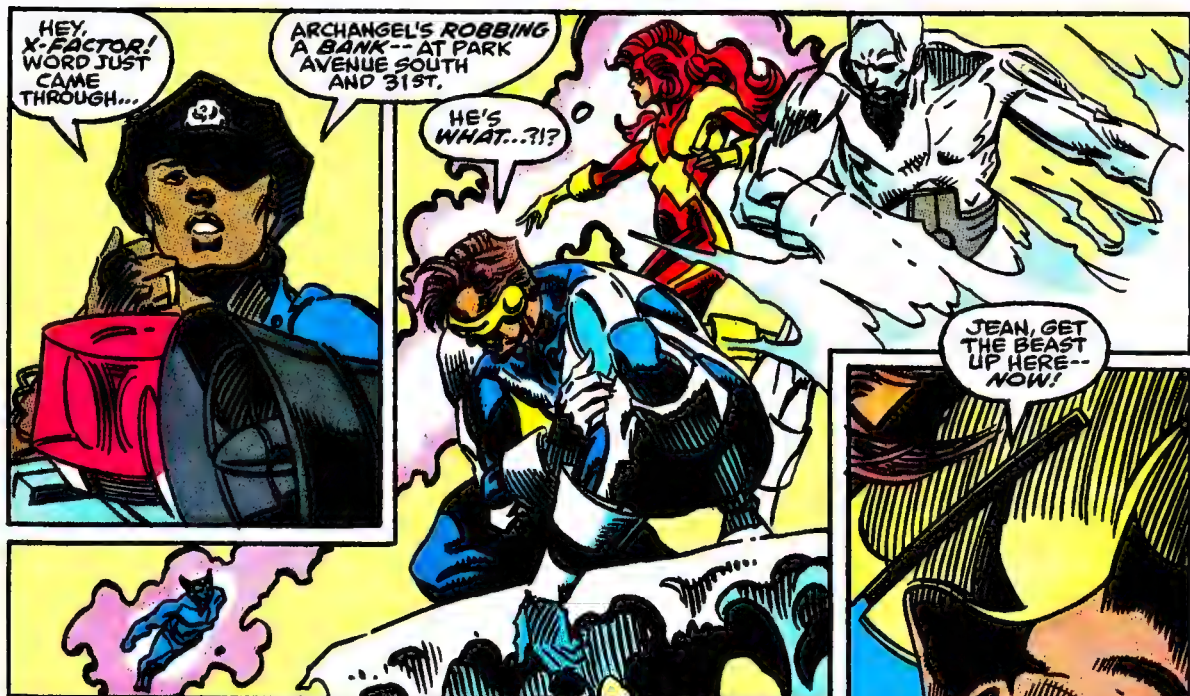
"HE CAN'T STAND TO
KNOW WHAT HE'S
BECOME... AND, YET...

"...HE RELISHES
THE FECKLESS
FREEDOM HIS
DELUSION BRINGS."

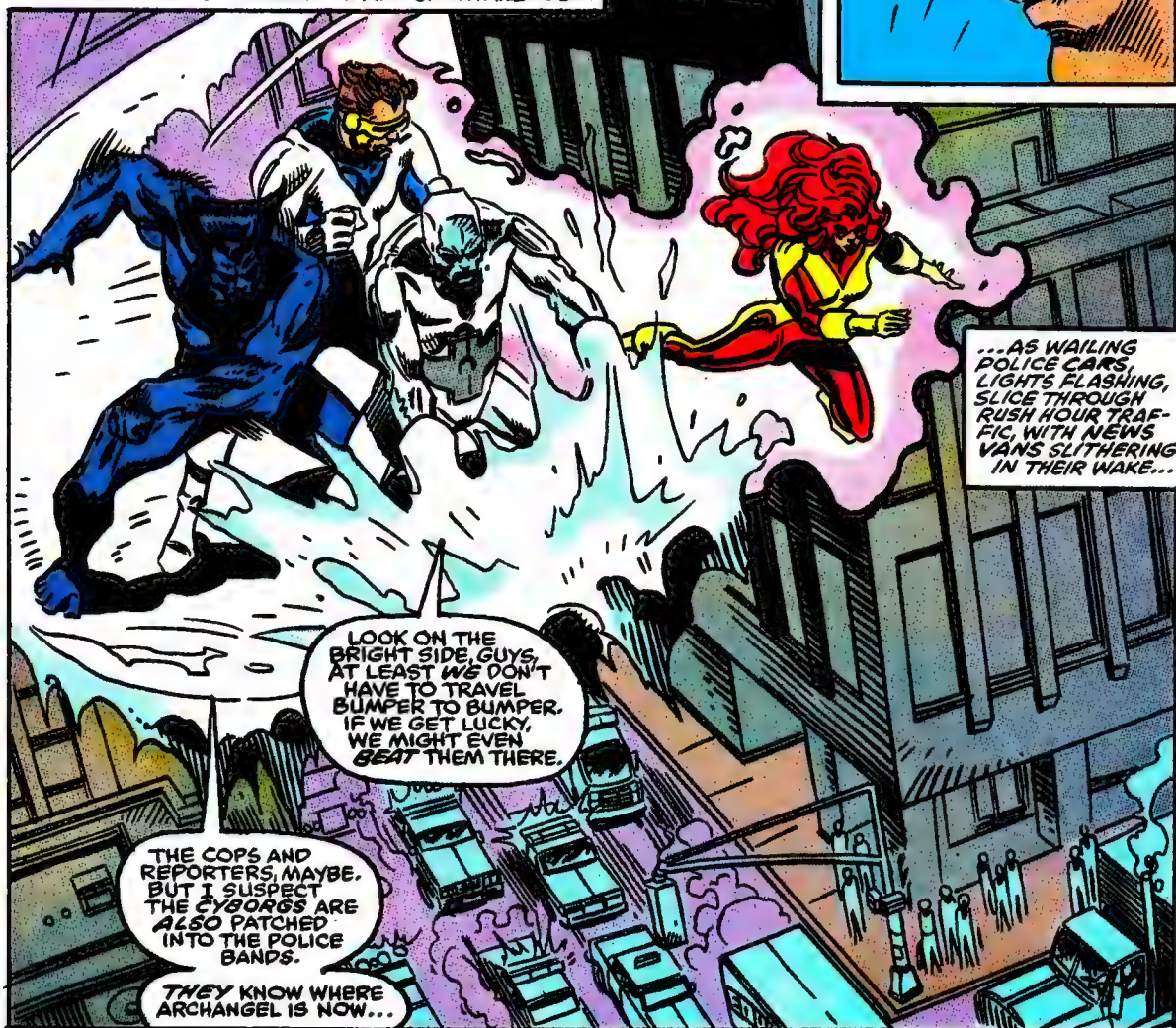
ELSEWHERE, THERE IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF MADNESS, AS HIGH OVER MANHATTAN, X-FACTOR CONTINUES TO BATTLE THE RIGHT SUPER-SOLDIERS...







THE NEWS REACHES EVERYONE SIMULTANEOUSLY. THEIR REACTION IS IMMEDIATE AND SPONTANEOUS...



"...AND THEY'RE WAY AHEAD OF US..."

CRASH!
BLAM

THERE'S
ARCHANGEL!
GET
HIM!

BAM!

ATTACKERS
BEFORE AND
BEHIND ME! I'M
SURROUNDED!

BRAH

BAMM

BWAM!

WHAM!

THERE IS
NO TIME
TO THINK...

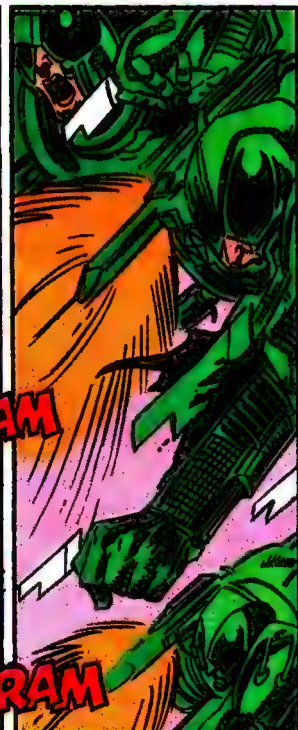
...BARELY
TO ACT.

WRAM!

...AND IT IS FOR SUCH A BATTLE THAT
THE DARK WINGS WERE CREATED.



PART OF HIS MIND
ABHORS THEIR
VIOLENCE...

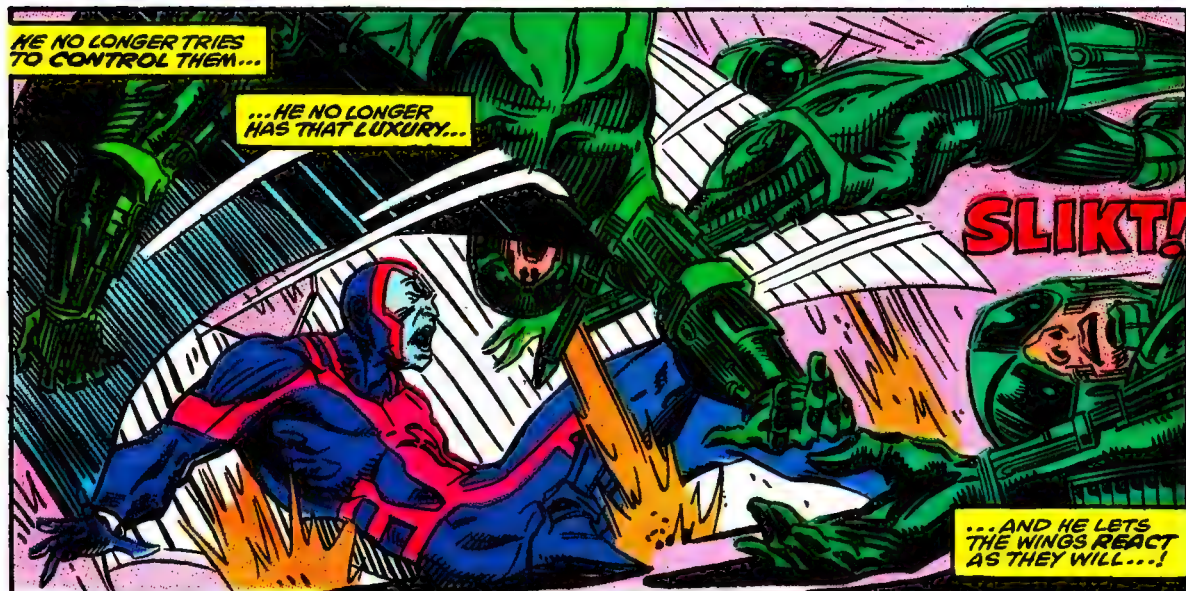


...EVEN AS HIS SOUL
REVELS IN THEIR
POWER.

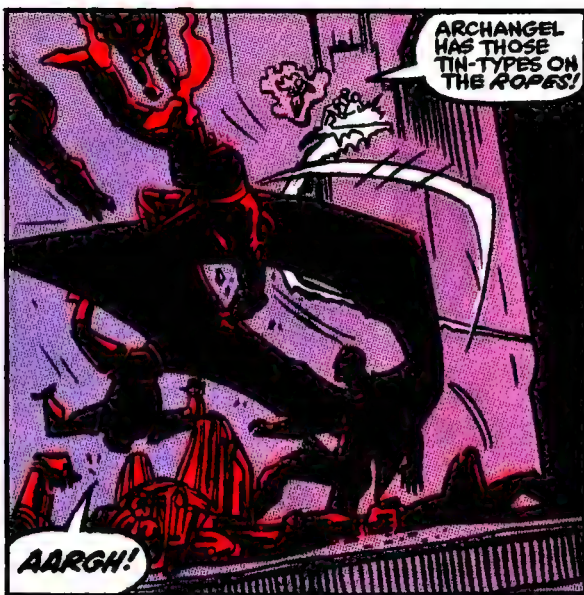


HE NO LONGER TRIES
TO CONTROL THEM...

...HE NO LONGER
HAS THAT LUXURY...



...AND HE LETS
THE WINGS REACT
AS THEY WILL....!



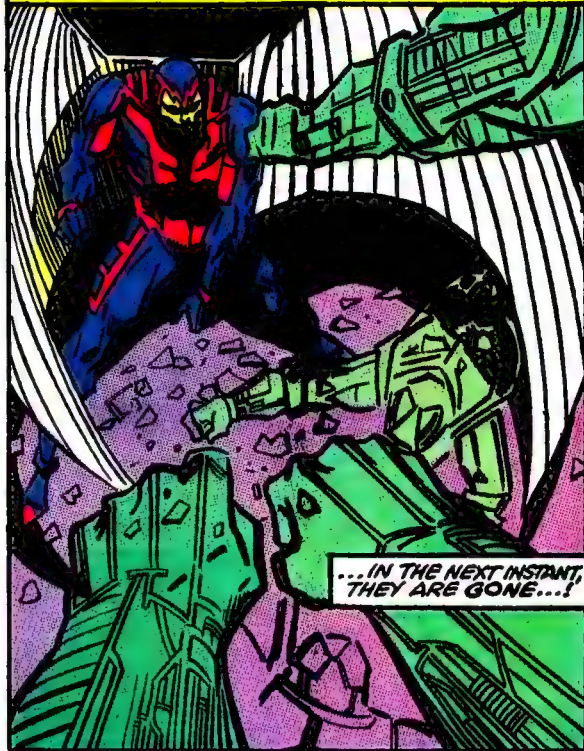
ARCHANGEL HAS THOSE TIN-TYPES ON THE ROPE!

AARGH!

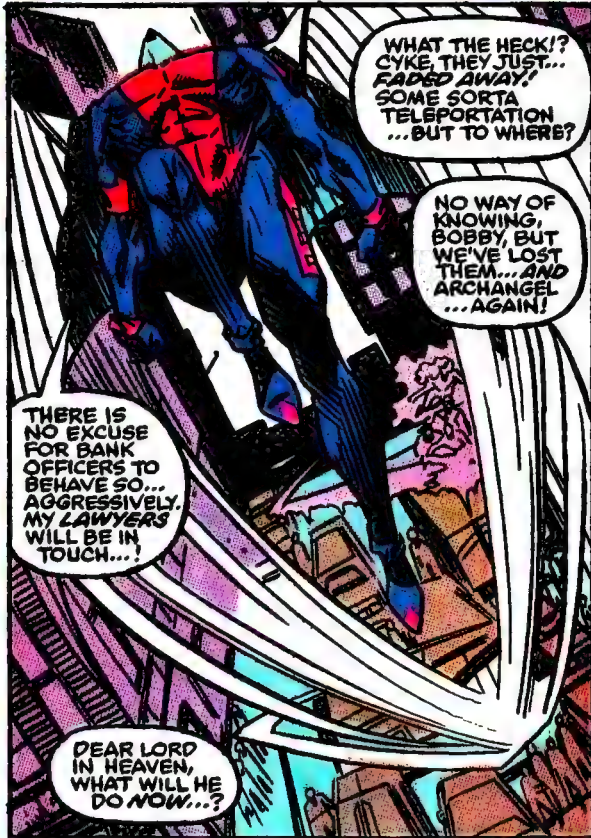


IF THEY HOLD HIS ATTENTION FOR A FEW SECONDS MORE, WE'LL HAVE HIM!

IT IS AS IF SOME MALEVOLENT ENTITY HAS READ CYCLOPS'S MIND, FOR THE RESPONSE IS NEARLY INSTANTANEOUS. ONE MOMENT THE CYBORGS SURROUND ARCHANGEL...



...IN THE NEXT INSTANT, THEY ARE GONE...

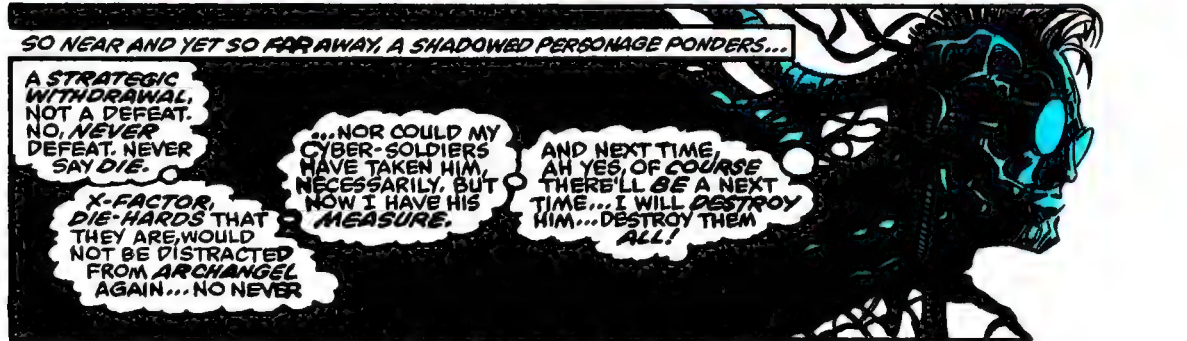


WHAT THE HECK!? CYKE, THEY JUST... FADED AWAY! SOME SORTA TELEPORTATION ...BUT TO WHERE?

NO WAY OF KNOWING, BOBBY, BUT WE'VE LOST THEM...AND ARCHANGEL ...AGAIN!

THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR BANK OFFICERS TO BEHAVE SO... AGGRESSIVELY. MY LAWYERS WILL BE IN TOUCH...

DEAR LORD IN HEAVEN, WHAT WILL HE DO NOW...?



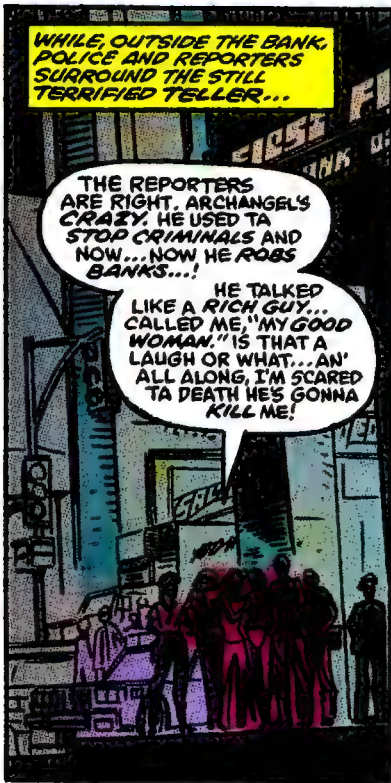
SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR AWAY, A SHADOWED PERSONAGE PONDERES...

A STRATEGIC WITHDRAWAL. NOT A DEFEAT. NO, NEVER DEFEAT. NEVER SAY DIE.

X-FACTOR, DIE-HARDS THAT THEY ARE, WOULD NOT BE DISTRACTED FROM ARCHANGEL AGAIN...NO NEVER

...NOR COULD MY CYBER-SOLDIERS HAVE TAKEN HIM NECESSARILY, BUT NOW I HAVE HIS MEASURE.

AND NEXT TIME, AH YES, OF COURSE THERE'LL BE A NEXT TIME... I WILL DESTROY HIM...DESTROY THEM ALL!



THE REPORTERS ARE RIGHT. ARCHANGEL'S CRAZY. HE USED TA STOP CRIMINALS AND NOW...NOW HE ROBS BANKS...

HE TALKED LIKE A RICH GUY... CALLED ME, "MY GOOD WOMAN." IS THAT A LAUGH OR WHAT... AN' ALL ALONG, I'M SCARED TA DEATH HE'S GONNA KILL ME!



WARREN WORTHINGTON...?

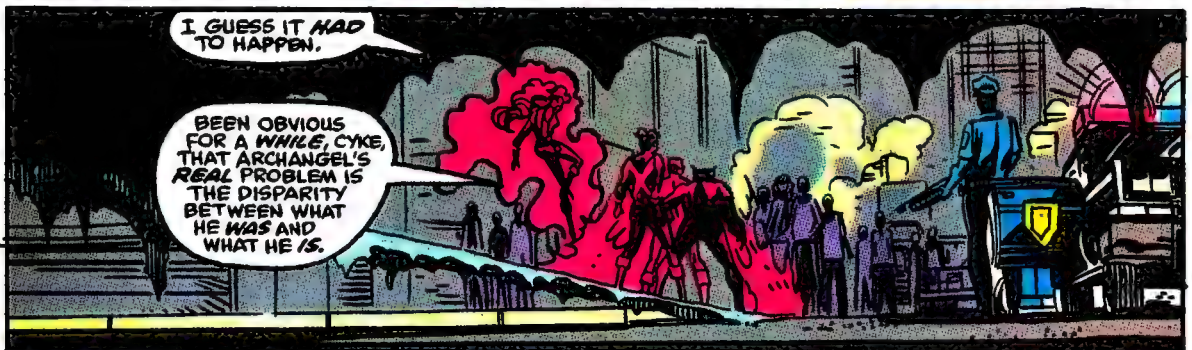
MISS TILBY... AND YOU OTHER REPORTERS... I'LL HAVE TA ASK YOU TA STEP BACK, WHILE THE POLICE GET A STATEMENT...



BUT WAS IT?

NOW ARCHANGEL HIMSELF HAS BLOWN HIS COVER AND I'LL HAVE TA REPORT IT, ALONG WITH THE PROOF I'VE ACCUMULATED...

...WHEN HANK FINDS OUT, THERE'LL BE HECK TA PAY.



BEEN OBVIOUS FOR A WHILE, CYKE, THAT ARCHANGEL'S REAL PROBLEM IS THE DISPARITY BETWEEN WHAT HE WAS AND WHAT HE IS.



SCOTT... OVERHEAD!

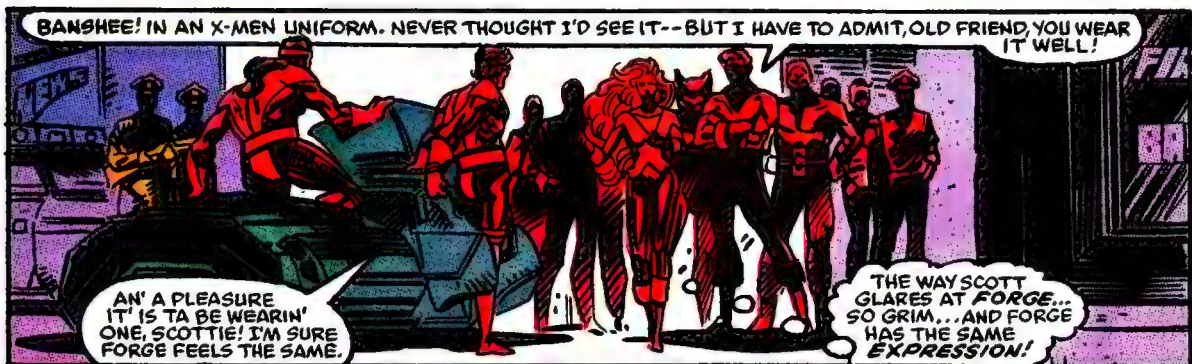


IT'S BANSHEE... AND FORGE... OF THE X-MEN!



WE JUST HEARD ON THE TELLY ABOUT YER TROUBLES.

LIKE IRISH SAYS, WE'VE COME TO OFFER OUR HELP IN YOUR QUEST FOR ARCHANGEL.



BANSHEE! IN AN X-MEN UNIFORM. NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE IT-- BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, OLD FRIEND, YOU WEAR IT WELL!

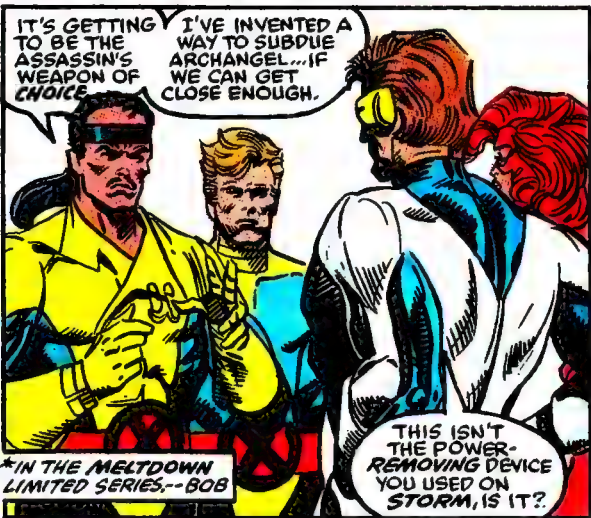
AN' A PLEASURE IT IS TA BE WEARIN' ONE, SCOTTIE! I'M SURE FORGE FEELS THE SAME.

THE WAY SCOTT GLARES AT FORGE... SO GRIM... AND FORGE HAS THE SAME EXPRESSION!



PLEASANTRIES ASIDE, FORGE BELIEVES THAT AN ALMOST UNDETECTABLE, SUBCUTANEOUSLY IMBEDDED CAPSULE...

...SIMILAR TO ONES USED ON HAVOK AND WOLVERINE A WHILE BACK, IS POISONING ARCHANGEL.

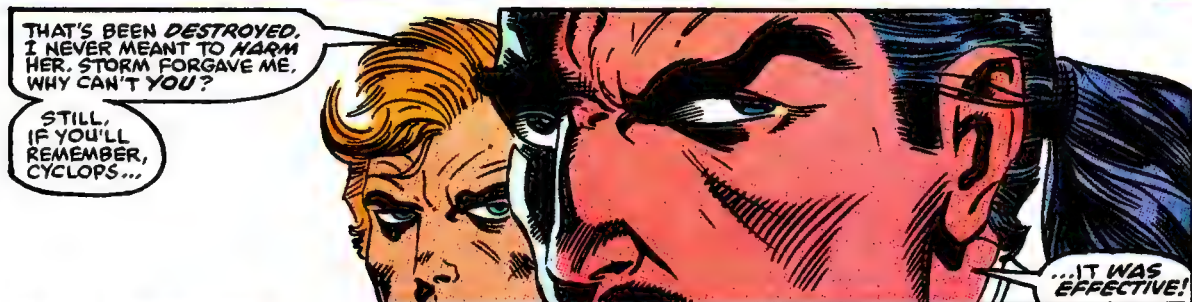


IT'S GETTING TO BE THE ASSASSIN'S WEAPON OF CHOICE

I'VE INVENTED A WAY TO SUBDUCE ARCHANGEL...IF WE CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH.

*IN THE MELTDOWN LIMITED SERIES--BOB

THIS ISN'T THE POWER-REMOVING DEVICE YOU USED ON STORM, IS IT?



THAT'S BEEN DESTROYED. I NEVER MEANT TO HARM HER. STORM FORGAVE ME. WHY CAN'T YOU?

STILL, IF YOU'LL REMEMBER, CYCLOPS...

...IT WAS EFFECTIVE!



MY OH MY...YOU CAN CUT THE TENSION WITH A KNIFE! FORGE IS OBVIOUSLY ATTRACTED TO JEAN. WE ALL SEE IT, BUT WHAT DOES SHE FEEL FOR FORGE--?

IT'S UP TO CYKE TO SAY YEA OR NAY...BUT WE CAN SURE USE THEIR HELP.

THANK YOU, FORGE. WE'LL GIVE YOUR INVENTION A TRY.



ARCHANGEL USED TO BANK HERE. HE APPEARS TO BE IN HIS WARREN WORTHINGTON MODE...

...AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE HE'LL GO NEXT.

A WORTHINGTON BUILDING HAS STOOD ON THIS SITE FOR NEARLY 150 YEARS, A MONUMENT TO THE FAMILY'S VAST WEALTH AND UNASSAILABLE SOCIAL POSITION.

THE PAST THREE GENERATIONS HAVE NOT HAD TO SULLY THEIR HANDS WITH TRADE, BUT HAVE DABBLED IN IT, OCCASIONALLY, FOR AMUSEMENT...

...AS THEIR SOLE HEIR, WARREN WORTHINGTON III, NOW PROPOSES TO DO...

WARREN, DARLING. YOU'RE LATE. WE'RE VOTING ON SOME INTERESTING ACQUISITIONS. I WAS HOPING YOU'D JOIN US.

CANDY...? CANDY SOUTHERN...? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU MADE ME A DIRECTOR... OR HAD YOU FORGOTTEN?

*WARREN'S GIRLFRIEND, KILLED MONTHS AGO... 608

NO. NO. THERE ... WAS A HOLD-UP AT THE BANK ... BUT AS YOU SEE, HERE I AM!

COME IN.

YOU... WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

OUR IMAGES REFLECTED IN THE MIRRORRED WALLS. FOR SOME REASON, THEY'VE GOT HIM SPOOKED!

SLIKT!

WARREN... CHILL OUT, BUDDY! IT'S US!

WE JUST WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

YOU AREN'T BOARD MEMBERS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I'LL HAVE YOU EVICTED! GUARDS...!

HE'S EDGING TOWARD THE DOOR! ICEMAN, JEAN... STOP HIM!





EASIER SAID THAN DONE, CYKE!

I'VE GOT HIM TELEKINETICALLY, BUT--



SLIKT!

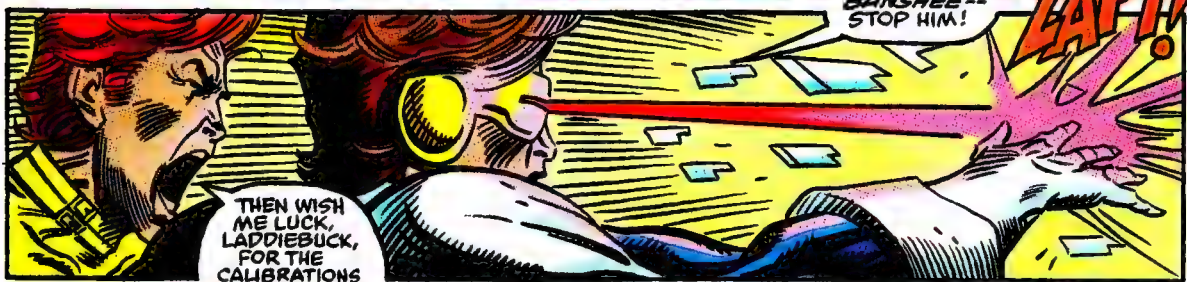
THIS IS BRAZEN ASSAULT!



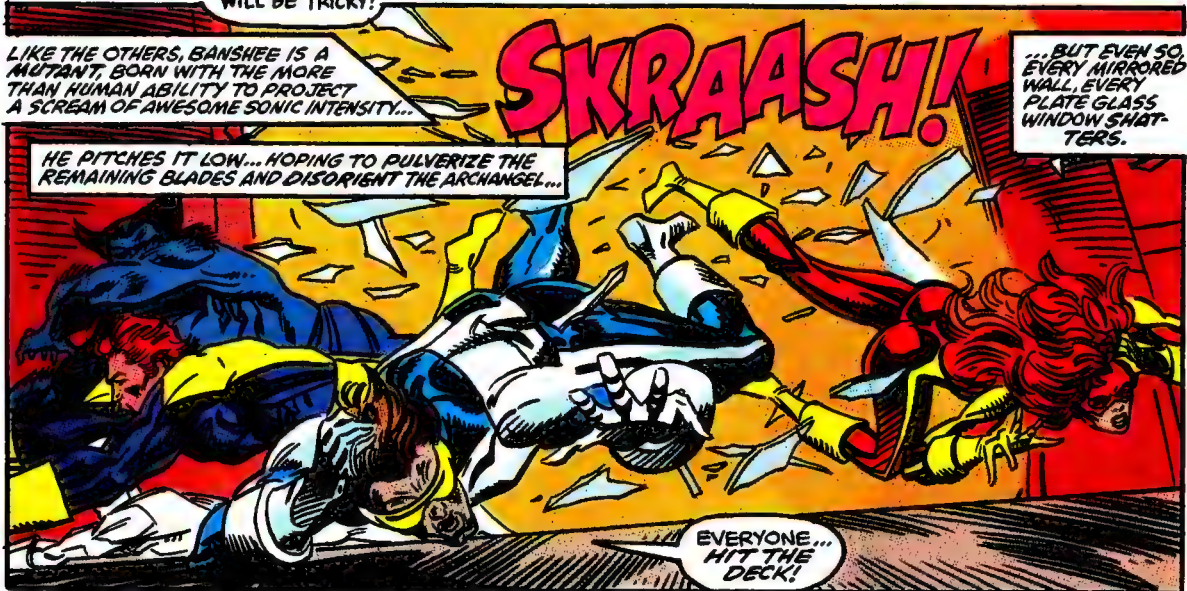
BLAST! I CAN TAKE OUT SOME BLADES, BUT NOT ALL, AND I'LL ONLY USE MY OPTIC BLAST AGAINST HIM AS A LAST RESORT!

BANSHEE-- STOP HIM!

ZAPT!



THEN WISH ME LUCK, LADDIEBUCK, FOR THE CALIBRATIONS WILL BE TRICKY!

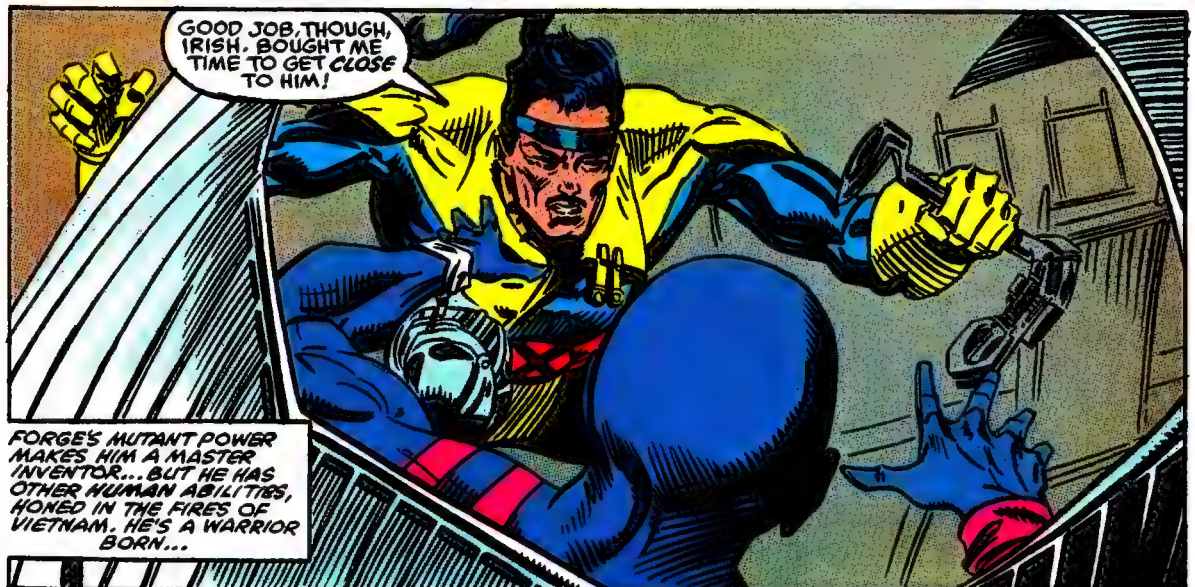
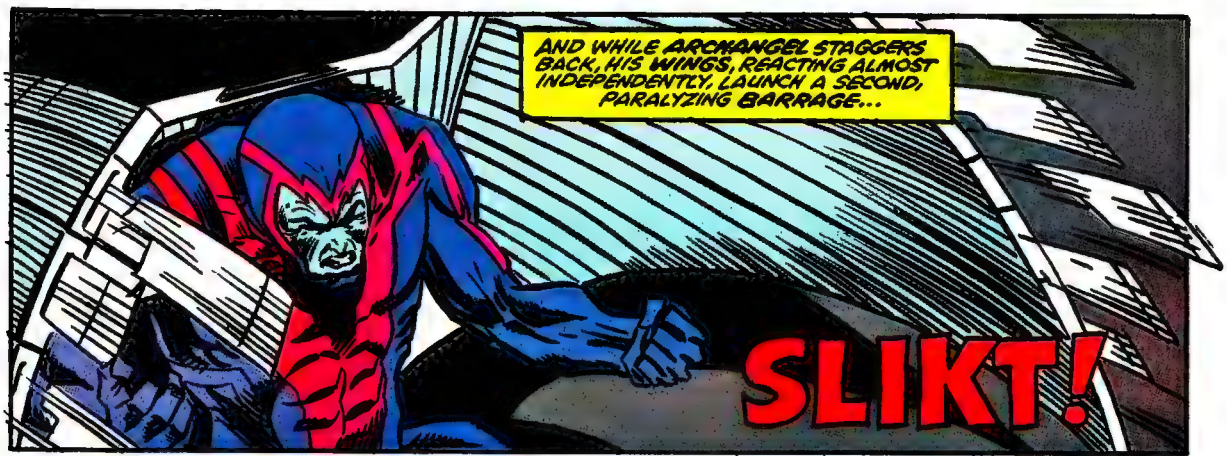


SKRAASH!

... BUT EVEN SO, EVERY MIRRORED WALL, EVERY PLATE GLASS WINDOW SHATTERS.

HE PITCHES IT LOW... HOPING TO PULVERIZE THE REMAINING BLADES AND DISORIENT THE ARCHANGEL...

EVERYONE... HIT THE DECK!





STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes! Wanna know why comic book column writers get gray? Try this on for size—

A few fishes back I told you to watch for "Into Thin Air," the new Larry Cohen movie in which some of your favorite Bullpenners play cameo roles. So far so good, right? Uh uh! Larry just told me the title was changed to "Ambulance"! Naturally, by the time he told me, the Soapbox column touting the other title had already been printed!

Well, to avoid any future foul-ups, just watch for a new thriller which may or may not be called "Ambulance," featuring my co-star, Eric Roberts! ("Co-star"? Well, I share the screen with him for almost thirty whole seconds! And, in case you're wondering, yeah, he's pretty good, too!)

By the way, have you noticed the many new comic book titles and companies popping up? Recently, someone said he was sorry we're having all this competition. I told him to save his sympathy! I mean, competition is what it's all about! Nothing like the sound of another comics company breathing down our necks to make us work even harder! And who benefits by it all? Hey, who else but you, the readers; you, who keep us alive by shelling out your shekels for our mag! If we give you what you want, you'll buy us! If not, it's goodbye, Charlie! And that's the way it should be!

You've been wonderfully loyal to us over the years, and no words of mine can fully express our gratitude. That's why I make you this pledge—we'll never stop bustin' our chops to give you the best we've got, to prove worthy of your support, to excite you, to amuse you and, for better or worse, to always level with you! Fact is, there's no way we'll ever forget our earliest adage . . . "We're nothing without you!"

Excelsior!

CHECKLIST

No checklist this month, Guys and Guernseys. If you want to find out what's on sale, check out last month's Bullpen Bulletins page. Meanwhile, here's some extra boxes you can practice checking off.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BAD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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JUNE, as hyperprolific Marvel Executive Editor-slash-Wisconsinite Mark Gruenwald always fails to remind us, is National Dairy Month. You know what that means? Yes, that's right, it's time once again for our first annual stroll around the Marvel neighborhood, to see how dairy products affect us in our everyday lives. Perhaps we should get ultranice dresser Assistant Editor Darry Butter (er, **Barry Dutter**) to accompany us on this little venture? Perhaps not.

The first stop on our sojourn is the local New York Smiler deli. We head toward the refrigerated dairy section in all its pre-packaged splendor. We spy the milk cartons, and are reminded of the happy days of our youth, reading comics by the fireplace, while sipping Bosco and milk. Not everyone has had so fortunate a childhood, however, and Marvel has recently been trying to do something about it.

Marvel has joined forces with the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse and the K-Mart Corporation to produce a comic book featuring **Spider-Man** and **Skids** of the New Mutants, dealing with child abuse. The comic will be distributed through K-Mart, and given out free to any parent who asks for it.

The comic came out in April, which, as neo-father-slash-GHOST RIDER-writer **Howard Mackie** could tell us, is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Certainly preventing child abuse is a high priority for all of us, parents and non-parents alike. Another priority, of course, is reminding children and non-children alike that milk is good for strong teeth and bones.

One guy who draws excellent teeth and great bones is megastar **Jim** ("Don't call me happy") **Lee**. (No relation to Stan.) If Jim were a happy guy, he'd really have a reason to smile now, since he is now regular pencil of the X-MEN, beginning with issue #268.

Todd McFarlane, on the other hand, is always happy to smile for us. The incredibly popular squiggly-web-drawing Canadian is giving birth this month to a new book featuring the adjective-less **Spider-Man**. Todd is both writing and drawing this one, surely cause for a celebration. Tell Aunt May to stock up on extra milk and cookies!

Well, we've lingered over the dairy counter so long the shop owner is beginning to stare at us in a peculiar way. Let us move on. As we reach the check-out counter, we spot the latest issue of the mucho-informative, ultraprestigious **SOAP OPERA WEEKLY** magazine. We can't help but recall the April 10th issue of **SOW**, which featured an interview with the second lady of American theater, **Elaine Lee**. (No relation to Stan.) Elaine spoke of her erstwhile role on the more-than-a-soap-opera-more-like-a-dramatic-ongoing-story TV show, **THE DOCTORS**, and her work on the if-comics-could-sing-the-world-would-sing-with-them **STEELTOWN ROCKERS**. Although Elaine made no mention of dairy products in the interview, we have to wonder if the thought of them might have crossed her mind.

We are reminded of the Wall of Bovines in the office of Epic's own super hard-working assistant editor, **Marie Javina**. Marie has had some of the biggest names in the business contribute drawings of cows to her wall. Among them: **Jim Lee**,

Jay Muth, **Mike Mignola**, and **Sergio Aragonés**. Now you see why it's called the Marvel Bullpen.

We exit the New York Smiler, and continue our stroll around the Marvel neighborhood. What's playing at the local theater? **THE STORY OF CHEESE**, perhaps? No, that was last week. This week, it's **ROBOP2**, co-scripted by the hyperhot he-was-doing-ninjas-when-ninjas-weren't-cool **Frank Miller**. We are reminded of our comics adaptation of this ultrapopular film, which we might urge you to pick up, if you need your **Ub RDA** of lip-puckering, justice-dispensing cyborgs. It's by **Alan Grant**, **Mark Bagley**, and **Tony DeZuniga**—all firm believers in the separation of the four basic food groups.

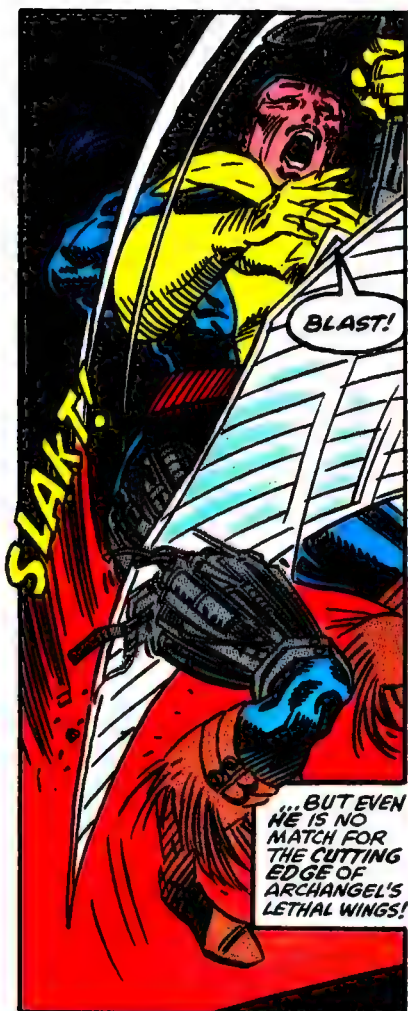
Why, look! It's a record store! Wasn't there a mega-groovy group a few decades back known as the **Cowells**? Why, sure there was! Maybe we can score one of their old albums on compact disc. While our fingers browse almost of their own accord, we happen upon the brand-new CD by the not-quite-yet-but-soon-to-be-superstars **Otis Ball** and the **Chain**. The album is called "I'm Gonna Love You 'Til I Don't," and it features back-up vocals on one song by the Buddha Singers. As late would have it, three of the Buddha singers are Marvel's own—the tow-headed neo-Editor **Mike Rockwitz**, colonist-par-excel-lence **Steve Buccellato**, and our ever-smiling Direct Sales Manager **Lou Bank**. As Lou described it, "Otis serenaded us outside our window, and this inspired us to sing with him. It was one of the most sentimental moments of my life." Lou predicts that Otis Ball and the Chain will be "bigger than the sliced wheel."

Sliced wheel? A probable cheese reference. Further proof that dairy products have become part of the American culture. Why, someone would have to be a fool to not include dairy products as part of his/her everyday diet. Which reminds us, appropriately enough, that June is also the release of the first issue of the **FOOL-KILLER** Limited Series.

It's scripted by ultra eccentric **Howard the Duck** creator **Steve Gerber**, with art by the meta-talented newcomer to Marvel, **JJ Birch**. Steve created the Foolkiller character in the early seventies in an issue of his mucho-classic **MAN-THING** series. Now there's a whole new nutcase in the Foolkiller suit, and he's re-defined the meaning of the word "fool." We wonder if this might include those who won't drink their milk!

Well, it's getting late, and our trip 'round the neighborhood has come to an end. We're tired—but it's a good kind of tired. As we reflect back on our day, we can't help but realize what a large role such products as cheese, butter, and milk play in our lives. But some of us enjoy them perhaps a little too much. In a recent study, it was revealed that Wisconsin adults weighed in as the nation's most obese in a national survey—for the **third consecutive year**! The reason for their pleasant plumpness? Seems it's their high consumption of dairy products like cheese and butter. Perhaps there's a lesson to be learned here. (Say, isn't the pre-obese non-serial killer **Mark Gruenwald** from Wisconsin?)

Gotta scoot!



BLAST!

BUT EVEN HE IS NO MATCH FOR THE CUTTING EDGE OF ARCHANGEL'S LETHAL WINGS!

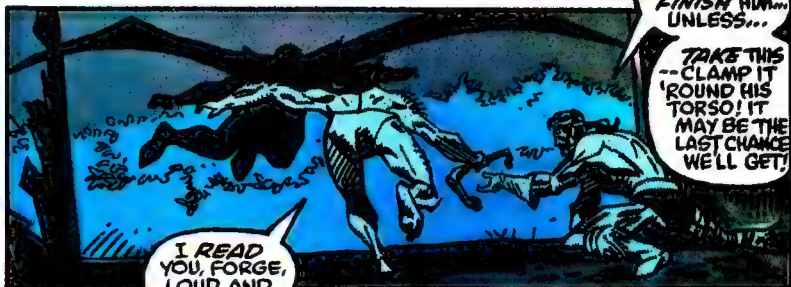


YOUR LEG--!

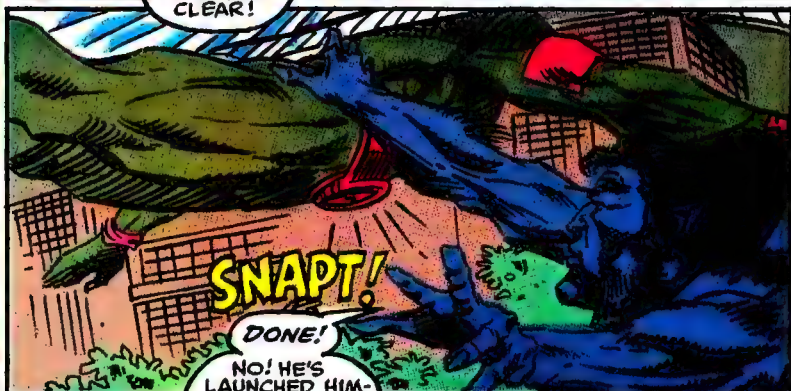
IT'S BIONIC. IT CAN BE REPAIRED! FORGET ME, BEAST...

...AND LOOK AT HIM! THE POISON'S TAKING ITS TOLL. IT'LL FINISH HIM... UNLESS...

TAKE THIS -- CLAMP IT 'ROUND HIS TORSO! IT MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE WE'LL GET!



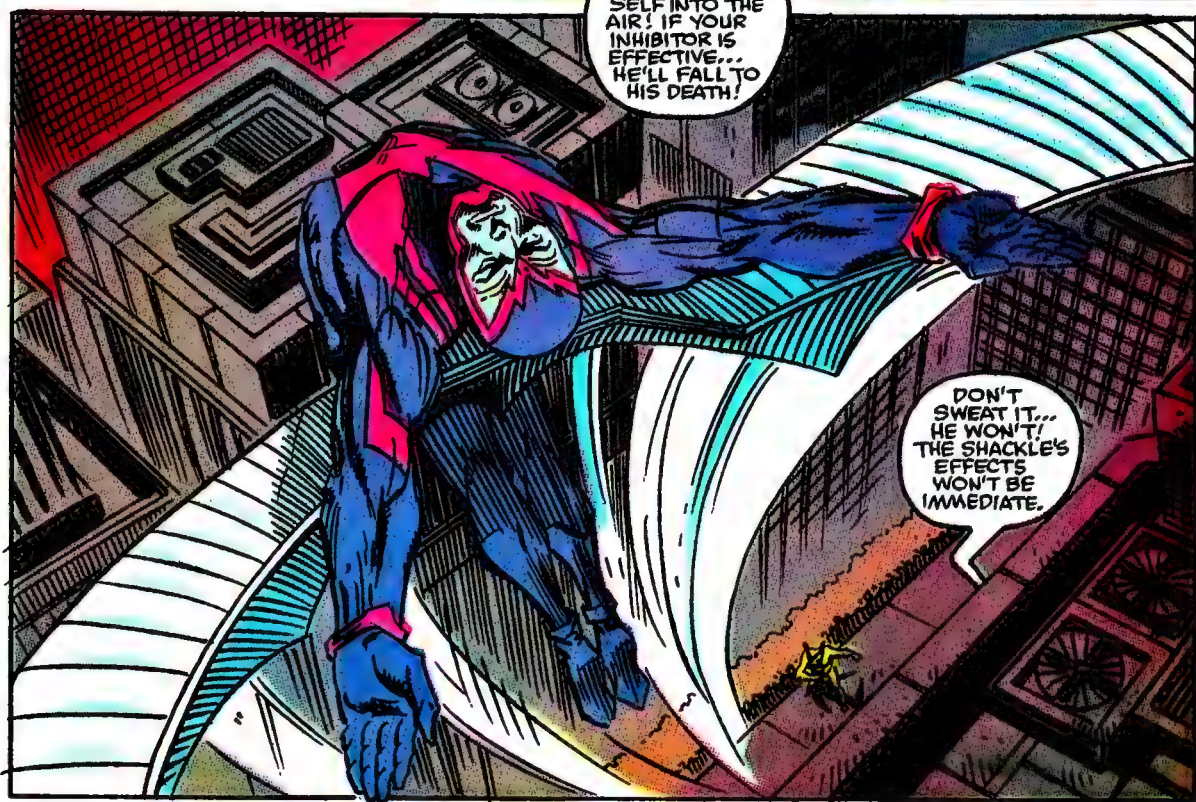
I READ YOU, FORGE, LOUD AND CLEAR!



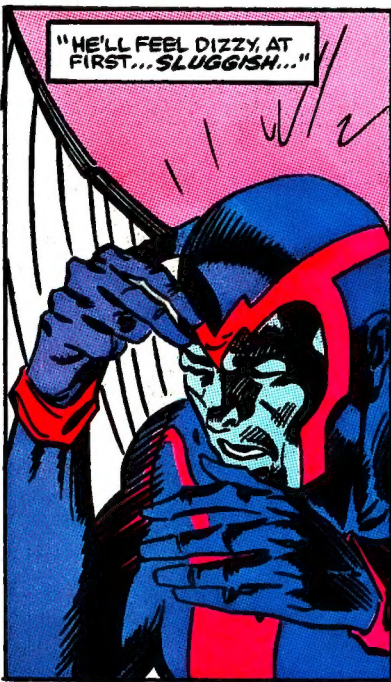
SNAPT!

DONE!

NO! HE'S LAUNCHED HIMSELF INTO THE AIR! IF YOUR INHIBITOR IS EFFECTIVE... HE'LL FALL TO HIS DEATH!



DON'T SWEAT IT... HE WON'T! THE SHACKLE'S EFFECTS WON'T BE IMMEDIATE.



"HE'LL FEEL DIZZY, AT FIRST... *SLUGGISH*..."



HE'S SINKING...



...SLOWLY TO THE GROUND!

FINALLY... IT'S ALMOST OVER!



NOW THAT WE HAVE HIM, THE BEAST AND I WILL BE ABLE TO LOCATE THE POISON CAPSULE AND REMOVE IT. ALL SHOULD BE WELL...

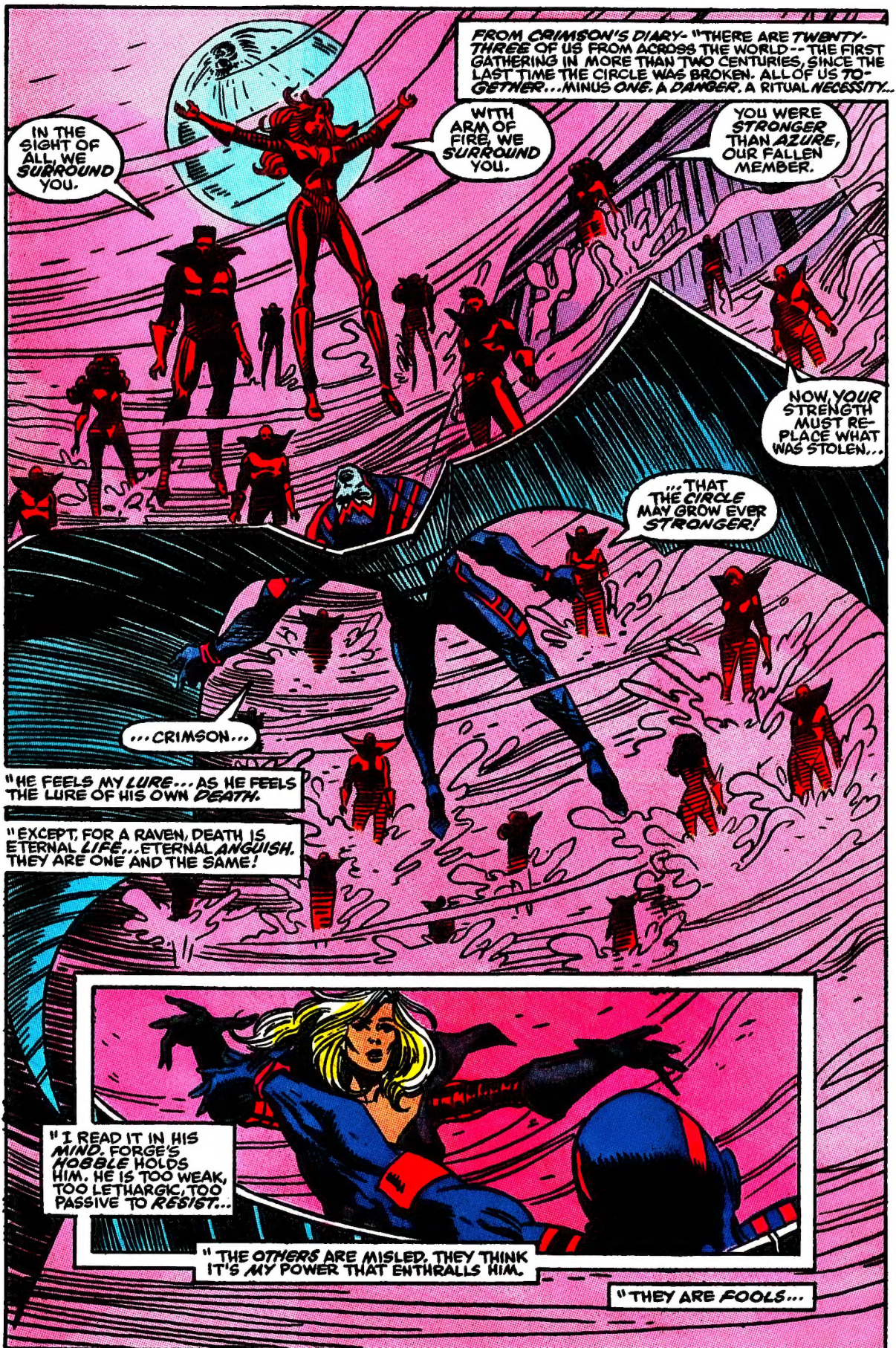
OH MY STARS AND GARTERS... WHAT'S THAT...?



MIST... THE RED MIST...!



NOOOO! PAIN... ANGER... A PSYCHIC BLAST OF HATE!



FROM CRIMSON'S DIARY- "THERE ARE TWENTY-THREE OF US FROM ACROSS THE WORLD-- THE FIRST GATHERING IN MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES, SINCE THE LAST TIME THE CIRCLE WAS BROKEN. ALL OF US TO-GETHER...MINUS ONE. A DANGER. A RITUAL NECESSITY."

IN THE SIGHT OF ALL, WE SURROUND YOU.

WITH ARM OF FIRE, WE SURROUND YOU.

YOU WERE STRONGER THAN AZURE, OUR FALLEN MEMBER.

NOW, YOUR STRENGTH MUST REPLACE WHAT WAS STOLEN...

"...THAT THE CIRCLE MAY GROW EVER STRONGER!"

...CRIMSON...

"HE FEELS MY LURE...AS HE FEELS THE LURE OF HIS OWN DEATH."

"EXCEPT, FOR A RAVEN, DEATH IS ETERNAL LIFE...ETERNAL ANGUISH. THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME!"

"I READ IT IN HIS MIND. FORGE'S HOBBLE HOLDS HIM. HE IS TOO WEAK, TOO LETHARGIC, TOO PASSIVE TO RESIST..."

"THE OTHERS ARE MISLED. THEY THINK IT'S MY POWER THAT ENTHRALLS HIM."

"THEY ARE FOOLS..."



"TOGETHER
WE RENDER
HIM DOWN
TO HIS
ESSENCE."

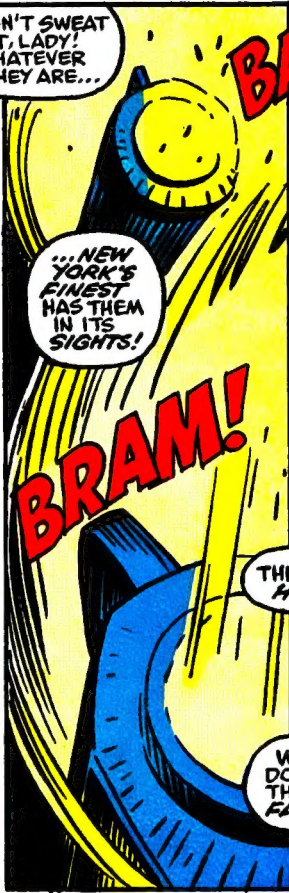
THEY'RE
GOING TO
TAKE
WARREN,
KILL HIM...
AND THEN...
THEN...DEAR
LORD WE
HAVE TO
STOP
THEM!



"I TAKE
CARE
THAT HIS
SHACKLE
GOES
WITH US!"



DON'T SWEAT
IT, LADY!
WHATEVER
THEY ARE...



...NEW
YORK'S
FINEST
HAS THEM
IN ITS
SIGHTS!

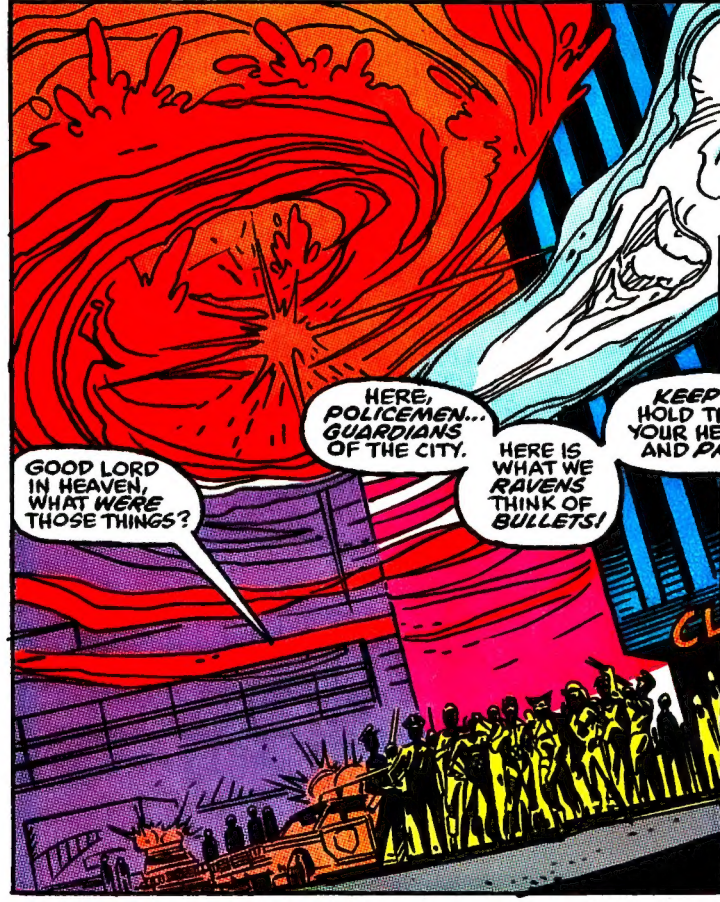
BRAM!

THEY'RE
HIT!

WHY
DON'T
THEY
FALL?



BAM!



GOOD LORD
IN HEAVEN,
WHAT WERE
THOSE THINGS?

HERE,
POLICEMEN...
GUARDIANS
OF THE CITY.

HERE IS
WHAT WE
RAVENS
THINK OF
BULLETS!

KEEP THEM.
HOLD THEM TO
YOUR HEARTS
AND PRAY...



... THAT
THE FATE
THAT AWAITS
THE ARCHANGEL,
WILL NEVER
THREATEN
ONE OF YOU!



NEXT--THE CHILLING CONCLUSION TO--
THE RAVEN SAGA!



MINUTEMEN

Bluntman